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News Release

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Wisconsin man pleads guilty to distributing crack cocaine

A 26-year-old Wisconsin man pleaded guilty today in federal court to distributing cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine. Appearing before United States District Court Judge Richard H. Kyle in St. Paul, Scott A. Doescher, of Junction City, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Doescher was charged on November 25, 2009.

In his plea agreement, Doescher admitted conspiring with others to distribute crack cocaine in Minnesota from 2007 through 2008. He specifically admitted distributing at least 50 grams of the drug between October 2007 and February 2008. In addition, Doescher admitted trading one or more firearms, including a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun, for crack cocaine.

A Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") affidavit filed in this case states that in March of 2008, law enforcement executed a search warrant at a Minneapolis residence following a controlled buy of crack cocaine at that location. During the search, police recovered a .45-caliber handgun.

By researching the gun's purchase history, authorities were led to Doescher, who admitted providing the weapon to one of his crack cocaine suppliers. That supplier told investigators he had acquired the gun from Doescher, his biggest crack client, in exchange for "two eight-balls," which is approximately seven grams of crack. Afterwards, the supplier reportedly transferred the weapon to the individual involved in the drug trafficking operation at the Minneapolis residence that was subject to the March 2008 search.

For his crime, Doescher faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison, with a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison. Judge Kyle will determine his sentence at a future date. Four of Doescher's crack cocaine sources, including the supplier who obtained the .45-caliber handgun from Doescher, also have been indicted in federal court on charges of conspiring to distribute at least 50 grams of crack cocaine.

This case is the result of an investigation by the DEA. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy L. Perzel.